

Message Text

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MEXICO FOR CUSTOMS ATTACHE, DEPT FOR S/NM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, CO, AODE
SUBJ: NARCOTICS INTERDICTION, COLOMBIA; REQUEST FOR ADVI-
SORY ASSISTANCE.

SUMMARY

THE GOVERNMENT OF COLOMBIA (GOC) CUSTOMS SERVICE IS MAKING A SINCERE AND EARNEST EFFORT TO IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION AND HAS A GENUINE DESIRE TO RAPIDLY INCREASE ITS CAPABILITIES. RECOGNIZING THAT A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM IN THIS AREA REQUIRES MEASURES BASED ON THE TOTAL UTILIZATION OF ALL RESOURCES AND THAT ITS PERSONNEL MUST UPGRADE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCY IN THE FIELD OF NARCOTICS INTERDICTION, THE COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN THE AREAS OF OPERATIONS AND TRAINING. TO PROVIDE THIS ASSISTANCE WE ARE REQUESTING THE SERVICES OF TWO U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS FOR COLOMBIA.

1. RECENT EXPERIENCE AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GOC CUSTOMS AND EMBASSY OFFICERS, AS WELL AS BETWEEN GOC CUSTOMS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS INTERESTS,
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HAS PROVEN THAT EXISTING EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTISE IS INADEQUATE FOR EFFECTIVE INTERDICTION OF NARCOTICS IN AND THROUGH COLOMBIA. THE GOC CUSTOMS IS CONVINCED, AND WE AGREE, THAT THEY ARE IN DIRE NEED OF RADAR AND TELE-COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, LARGE AND SMALL MARINE CRAFT AS WELL AS RIVER BOATS, RECON AND TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, LAND TRANSPORT, MAINTENANCE FACILITIES AND OTHER LOGISTICAL

SUPPORT. ALL OF THESE MUST BE COMPLEMENTED WITH ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING.

2. THE GOC CUSTOMS HAS ALREADY INITIATED ACTIVITIES IN THE AREAS OF TRAINING AND IN THE RESTORATION OF SEVERAL MARINE CRAFT. (FOR DETAILS ON TRAINING SEE U.S. CUSTOMS 1113 AND BOGOTA 2359). THE RESTORATION OF TWO (COAST GUARD CUTTER TYPE) MARINE CRAFT IS NOW UNDERWAY AND THREE OTHERS ARE TO BE RESTORED TO FULL OPERATION. ALL FIVE SHOULD BE OPERATIONAL BY THE THIRD QUARTER OF CY 1978. EIGHT BERTRAM PATROL BOATS AND THREE SMALLER MONARCH LAUNCHES ARE ALSO BEING RESTORED TO PROVIDE FOR A MARINE SERVICE WITHIN GOC CUSTOMS.

3. OTHER IMMEDIATE PROJECTS ARE THE CONSTRUCTION OF ADEQUATE CLASSROOM AND TRAINING FACILITIES, INCLUDING A FIVE POSITION FIRING RANGE AND A PHOTO LABORATORY.

4. THE "PORT POLICE" A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, HAS RESPONSIBILITIES AT SEAPORTS SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE GOC CUSTOMS. THEY ARE ALSO IN DIRE NEED OF OPERATIONAL ADVISE AND TRAINING.

5. IN SUPPORT OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED ACTIVITIES AND NEEDS, WE ARE REQUESTING THE ASSIGNMENT OF TWO U.S. CUSTOMS ADVISORS FOR A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS, WITH CONSIDERATION FOR EXTENSION, UNCLASSIFIED

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DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS DURING THAT PERIOD. WE ENVISION THAT THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WOULD PROVIDE ADVISE AND ASSISTANCE IN ENFORCEMENT IN THE MOVEMENT OF NARCOTICS IN AND THROUGH COLOMBIA.

A. ONE OFFICER WOULD SERVE AS OPERATIONS ADVISOR RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING ADVISORY ASSISTANCE IN THE AREA OF (1) PLANNING AND COORDINATION; (2) LAND, AIR, AND MARINE PATROL OPERATIONS; (3) INTERDICTION METHODS AND RELATED TACTICAL OPERATIONS; (4) NARCOTICS SENSOR DOG OPERATIONS; (5) BAGGAGE INSPECTION PROCEDURES; AND ALL OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE ABOVE.

B. THE TRAINING ADVISOR WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING ADVISE AND ACTUAL INVOLVEMENT IN (1) PLANNING AND COORDINATING TRAINING PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AT ALL LEVELS; (2) IDENTIFYING AND DEVELOPING INSTRUCTORS WITHIN THE GOC CUSTOMS; (3) ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM TRAINING SYSTEM CONSISTENT WITH LESSON PLANS; (4) DEVELOPING OF TRAINING AIDS; (5) PROVIDE TRAINING ON MAINTENANCE OF LAND AND MARINE VEHICLES AND CRAFT; (6) COORDINATE SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES.

6. THE NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE OFFICE'S MAIN FUNCTIONS ARE TO

ASSIT THE COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES IN DEVELOPING THOSE INSTITUTIONAL ELEMENTS THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT, INTERDICTION, AND DEMAND REDUCTION. THE ASSIGNMENT OF TWO U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICIALS TO COLOMBIA WAS CONTEMPLATED IN PART I., PARAGRAPHS C.2. AND 3. OF THE MISSION'S FY 79 INC CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION NCAP (BOGOTA 11580) AND THEIR PRESENCE WILL ENHANCE THE MISSION'S OVERALL NARCOTICS EFFORTS. WE ENVISION THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TWO CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE LIMITED TO ASSISTING THE GOC CUSTOMS BUT WILL FROM TIME TO TIME EXTEND BEYOND THOSE LIMITS. ASSISTANCE TO THE PORT POLICE FOR EXAMPLE AND PERHAPS ASSISTING IN THE DEMAND REDUCTION EFFORT IN SOME MANNER.

7. WE ARE AWARE OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS
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WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN CUSTOMS HEADQUARTERS AND S/NM REGARDING THIS MATTER, AND APPRECIATE THE FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM BOTH. THIS CABLE CONSTITUTES A MODE CLEARANCE IF ONE IS NECESSARY.
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